

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 46-55 have been cancelled.

The following was added at page 9 line 9 of the specification:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lee Stepina on September 24, 2009.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior art fails to teach or suggest a shaping bed in a circular arc of more than 90° with a plurality of blow-boxes disposed wherein the blow boxes extend over 90° of the circular arc and the glass sheets are released in a direction opposite which they were fed. The circular arc of the shaping bed provides a larger shaping zone resulting in better optical quality and the cooling area extending over 90° of the circular arc provides the advantage of a correctly carried out tempering and also influences the final concavity of the glass sheet. The combination of the shaping bed and cooling zone of more than 90°, such that the

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glass is released in a direction opposite the feed direction provides the advantage of a reduction in ground space needed for the apparatus.

4. NEDELEC (US 4,292,065) teaches a method of manufacturing glass sheets on a shaping bed that is half-circle in shape wherein the glass is released in a direction opposite in which it was fed. While NEDELEC teaches blowing air on the glass sheets to cool them, NEDELEC does not teach or suggest a plurality of blow-boxes along a portion of the bed that extends greater than 90°.

5. MCMASTER (US 3,329,493) teaches a method wherein glass is brought to its softening temperature and then sent to a bending and cooling station. However, MCMASTER teaches that it is the furnace (25) that comprises a bed in a circular arc of greater than 90° while the bending and cooling station (26) is composed of a pair of face plates with blastheads.

6. ANTONNEN (US 4,976,762) teaches a method of manufacturing glass sheets wherein the shaping bed has an arc greater than 90° with 3 blow boxes extending along an arc greater than 90° (figure 7). ANTONNEN does not teach or suggest releasing the glass sheets in a direction opposite the feed direction (see figure 9).

7. DOUCHE (US 6,598,427 B1) teaches a method of manufacturing glass sheets wherein the shaping bed had an arc of 90°. DOUCHE discloses that the blow boxes extend along a portion covering less than 90° and fails to teach or suggest removing the glass sheets in a direction opposite the direction in which they are fed.

8. LETEMPS et al. (EP 0 593 363 A1) teaches a method of manufacturing glass sheets wherein the glass travels over a curved cooling conveyer (12) that appears to be

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over 90°, however, LETEMPS is silent as to the cooling means. LETEMPS also shows that the shaping bed and cooling zone are two separate conveyors. LETEMPS does not teach or suggest removing the glass sheets in a direction opposite the direction in which they are fed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CYNTHIA SZEWCZYK whose telephone number is (571)270-5130. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 7:30 am to 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on (571) 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/STEVEN P. GRIFFIN/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 1791

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